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C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 002584

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/20/2012
TAGS: [PREL](#) [PTER](#) [EG](#) [IS](#)
SUBJECT: MOD CALLS DEPLOYMENT OF BORDER GUARD FORCES AN
INTERNAL MATTER

REF: A. CAIRO 2243
[1](#)B. MCKAY-EMBASSY CAIRO E-MAIL (AUGUST 17 2007)

Classified By: DCM Stuart Jones for reasons 1.4(b) and (d).

(C) During a meeting on August 18, Assistant Minister of Defense MG Al Assar told poloff that Egypt would not consider increasing the number of Border Guard Forces (BGF) on the border with Gaza until Israel agrees to Egypt's request to accept an additional regiment -- 750 BGF -- under the bilateral agreement governing the BGF deployment. He, along with Liaison Agency with International Organizations (LAWIO) Chief MG Nagy Kamal, said that the MoD personnel system is based on unit deployments; MoD would not be willing to adjust the number of BGF on the Gaza border until they could draw from a second unit of 750 troops. Visibly irritated at being pressed on this issue, MG Al Assar added that BGF deployments are an internal matter, as well as an issue of sovereignty. In response to poloff's question as to how Egypt would use the additional troops, Al Assar again said this is an internal MoD matter, but noted that the additional BGF would give Egypt opportunities to use more mobile patrols. Comment: We conclude that in order to induce Egyptian flexibility on border deployments under the applicable agreement, we will need to go over Defense Minister Tantawi's head.

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